

**Preliminary Amendment of U.S. National Stage for International Application
PCT/EP00/08922 filed September 13, 2000**



wherein x represents a number of from 1 to 30, each R independently represents a substituent selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen, a methyl group and an ethyl group, and R² represents a linear alkyl radical having from 16 to 22 carbon atoms; and (b) up to 6% by weight, based on the weight of the surfactant mixture, of one or more anionic surfactants; are described. Additional mixtures further comprising additional alcohol alkoxylates are also described. Solid laundry detergent compositions comprising such surfactant mixtures are described as well.--

In the Claims:

Please add new claims 21-44, as follows:

--21. (New) A surfactant mixture comprising:

(a) a nonionic surfactant mixture present in an amount greater than 60% by weight, based on the weight of the surfactant mixture, the nonionic surfactant mixture comprising:

(i) at least one alk(en)yl oligoglycoside of the general formula

(I),



wherein R¹ represents an alk(en)yl radical having from 4 to 22 carbon atoms, G represents a sugar radical having 5 or 6 carbon atoms and p represents a number from 1 to 10; and

(ii) at least one nonionic surfactant of the general formula (II)



wherein x represents a number of from 1 to 30, each R independently represents a substituent selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen, a methyl group and an ethyl group, and R² represents a linear alkyl radical having from 16 to 22 carbon atoms; and

(b) up to 6% by weight, based on the weight of the surfactant mixture, of one or more anionic surfactants.--

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--22. (New) The surfactant mixture according to claim 21, wherein the nonionic surfactant mixture further comprises: (c) at least one additional nonionic surfactant selected from the group consisting of alkoxylates of an alcohol mixture according to the general formula (III), alkoxylates of an alcohol mixture according to the general formula (IV), alkoxylates of an alcohol mixture according to the general formula (V), and fatty acid polyglycol esters of the general formula (VI);



wherein each of y, z, q and s independently represents a number of from 1 to 30, each R independently represents a substituent selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen, a methyl group and an ethyl group; R^3 represents an alkyl radical derived from an alcohol mixture comprising from 70 to 95% by weight of C_{8-22} linear alcohols, from 5 to 30% by weight of C_{8-22} alcohols branched with methyl groups, and up to 10% by weight of C_{8-22} alcohols branched with alkyl groups having at least 2 carbon atoms; R^4 represents an alkyl radical derived from an alcohol mixture comprising from 35 to 55% by weight of C_{8-22} linear alcohols, from 10 to 20% by weight of C_{8-22} alcohols branched with methyl groups, and 35 to 45% by weight of C_{8-22} alcohols branched with alkyl groups having at least 2 carbon atoms; R^5 represents an alkyl radical derived from an alcohol mixture comprising up to 10% by weight of C_{6-10} linear alcohols, from 40 to 90% by weight of C_{12-14} linear alcohols, and up to 30% by weight of C_{16-22} linear alcohols; and wherein R^6CO represents an acyl radical having from 6 to 22 carbon atoms and R^7 represents an alkyl radical having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms.--

--23. (New) The surfactant mixture according to claim 21, wherein the at least one nonionic surfactant of the general formula (II) comprises an alkoxylated mixture of linear alcohols, the mixture of linear alcohols comprising from 80 to 100% by weight of alcohols having from 16 to 22 carbon atoms and from 0 to 20% by weight of alcohols having

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from 6 to 14 carbon atoms, the weight percents being based on the total weight of the mixture of alcohols.--

--24. (New) The surfactant mixture according to claim 23, wherein the mixture of linear alcohols comprises from 3 to 8% by weight of linear saturated alcohols having 14 carbon atoms, from 25 to 35% by weight of linear saturated alcohols having 16 carbon atoms, and from 60 to 70% by weight of linear saturated alcohols having 18 carbon atoms.--

--25. (New) The surfactant mixture according to claim 24, further comprising up to 2% by weight of linear saturated alcohols having 12 carbon atoms, and up to 2% by weight of linear saturated alcohols having 22 carbon atoms.--

--26. (New) The surfactant mixture according to claim 21, wherein x represents a number of from 4 to 12 and each R represents hydrogen.--

--27. (New) The surfactant mixture according to claim 21, wherein the nonionic surfactant mixture further comprises: (c) at least one additional nonionic surfactant selected from the group consisting of alkoxylates of an alcohol mixture according to the general formula (III):



wherein y represents a number of from 1 to 30, each R independently represents a substituent selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen, a methyl group and an ethyl group, and R^3 represents an alkyl radical derived from an alcohol mixture comprising from 73 to 85% by weight of C_{8-22} linear alcohols, from 13 to 25% by weight of C_{8-22} alcohols branched with methyl groups, and from 2 to 7% by weight of C_{8-22} alcohols branched with alkyl groups having at least 2 carbon atoms.--

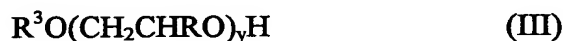
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--28. (New) The surfactant mixture according to claim 21, wherein the nonionic surfactant mixture further comprises: (c) at least one additional nonionic surfactant selected from the group consisting of alkoxylates of an alcohol mixture according to the general formula (III):



wherein y represents a number of from 1 to 30, each R independently represents a substituent selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen, a methyl group and an ethyl group, and R³ represents an alkyl radical derived from an alcohol mixture comprising from 73 to 85% by weight of C₁₂₋₁₅ linear alcohols, from 13 to 25% by weight of C₁₂₋₁₅ alcohols branched with methyl groups, and from 2 to 7% by weight of C₁₀₋₁₅ alcohols branched with alkyl groups having at least 2 carbon atoms.--

--29. (New) The surfactant mixture according to claim 21, wherein the nonionic surfactant mixture further comprises: (c) at least one additional nonionic surfactant selected from the group consisting of alkoxylates of an alcohol mixture according to the general formula (III):



wherein y represents a number of from 4 to 12, each R independently represents a substituent selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen, a methyl group and an ethyl group, and R³ represents an alkyl radical derived from an alcohol mixture comprising from 70 to 95% by weight of C₈₋₂₂ linear alcohols, from 5 to 30% by weight of C₈₋₂₂ alcohols branched with methyl groups, and up to 10% by weight of C₈₋₂₂ alcohols branched with alkyl groups having at least 2 carbon atoms.--

--30. (New) The surfactant mixture according to claim 21, wherein the nonionic surfactant mixture further comprises: (c) at least one additional nonionic surfactant selected from the group consisting of alkoxylates of an alcohol mixture according to the general formula (IV):



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wherein z represents a number of from 1 to 30, each R independently represents a substituent selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen, a methyl group and an ethyl group, and R⁴ represents an alkyl radical derived from an alcohol mixture comprising from 50 to 60% by weight of branched alcohols, and from 40 to 50% by weight of linear alcohols.--

--31. (New) The surfactant mixture according to claim 21, wherein the nonionic surfactant mixture further comprises: (c) at least one additional nonionic surfactant selected from the group consisting of alkoxylates of an alcohol mixture according to the general formula (IV):



wherein z represents a number of from 4 to 12, each R represents hydrogen, and R⁴ represents an alkyl radical derived from an alcohol mixture comprising from 50 to 60% by weight of branched alcohols, and from 40 to 50% by weight of linear alcohols.--

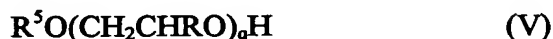
--32. (New) The surfactant mixture according to claim 21, wherein the nonionic surfactant mixture further comprises: (c) at least one additional nonionic surfactant selected from the group consisting of alkoxylates of an alcohol mixture according to the general formula (V):



wherein q represents a number of from 1 to 30, each R independently represents a substituent selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen, a methyl group and an ethyl group, and R⁵ represents an alkyl radical derived from an alcohol mixture comprising up to 5% by weight of C₆₋₁₀ linear alcohols, from 55 to 85% by weight of C₁₂₋₁₄ linear alcohols, and from 10 to 25% by weight of C₁₆₋₂₂ linear alcohols.--

--33. (New) The surfactant mixture according to claim 21, wherein the nonionic surfactant mixture further comprises: (c) at least one additional nonionic surfactant selected from the group consisting of alkoxylates of an alcohol mixture according to the general formula (V):

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wherein q represents a number of from 4 to 12, each R represents hydrogen, and R^5 represents an alkyl radical derived from an alcohol mixture comprising up to 10% by weight of C_{6-10} linear alcohols, from 40 to 90% by weight of C_{12-14} linear alcohols, and up to 30% by weight of C_{16-22} linear alcohols.--

--34. (New) The surfactant mixture according to claim 21, wherein the nonionic surfactant mixture further comprises: (c) a fatty acid polyglycol ester of the general formula (VI):



wherein s represents a number of from 10 to 15, each R represents hydrogen, R^6CO represents an acyl radical having from 16 to 18 carbon atoms and R^7 represents a methyl group.--

--35. (New) The surfactant mixture according to claim 21, wherein at least one alk(en)yl oligoglycoside of the general formula (I) and the at least one nonionic surfactant of the formula (II) are present in a weight ratio of from 20:1 to 1:20.--

--36. (New) The surfactant mixture according to claim 22, wherein at least one alk(en)yl oligoglycoside of the general formula (I) and the combined at least one nonionic surfactant of the formula (II) and at least one additional nonionic surfactant are present in a weight ratio (a):(b)+(c) of from 10:1 to 1:20.--

--37. (New) A solid laundry detergent comprising from 5 to 30% by weight, based on the weight of the detergent, of a surfactant mixture, wherein the surfactant mixture comprises:

(a) a nonionic surfactant mixture present in an amount greater than 60% by weight, based on the weight of the surfactant mixture, the nonionic surfactant mixture comprising:

(i) at least one alk(en)yl oligoglycoside of the general formula

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(I),



wherein R^1 represents an alk(en)yl radical having from 4 to 22 carbon atoms, G represents a sugar radical having 5 or 6 carbon atoms and p represents a number from 1 to 10; and

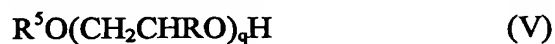
(ii) at least one nonionic surfactant of the general formula (II)



wherein x represents a number of from 1 to 30, each R independently represents a substituent selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen, a methyl group and an ethyl group, and R^2 represents a linear alkyl radical having from 16 to 22 carbon atoms; and

(b) up to 6% by weight, based on the weight of the surfactant mixture, of one or more anionic surfactants.--

--38. (New) The solid laundry detergent according to claim 37, wherein the nonionic surfactant mixture further comprises: (c) at least one additional nonionic surfactant selected from the group consisting of alkoxylates of an alcohol mixture according to the general formula (III), alkoxylates of an alcohol mixture according to the general formula (IV), alkoxylates of an alcohol mixture according to the general formula (V), and fatty acid polyglycol esters of the general formula (VI);



wherein each of y, z, q and s independently represents a number of from 1 to 30, each R independently represents a substituent selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen, a methyl group and an ethyl group; R^3 represents an alkyl radical derived from an alcohol mixture comprising from 70 to 95% by weight of C_{8-22} linear alcohols, from 5 to 30% by weight of C_{8-22} alcohols branched with methyl groups, and up to 10% by weight of C_{8-22} alcohols branched with alkyl groups having at least 2 carbon atoms; R^4 represents an alkyl radical derived from an alcohol mixture comprising from 35 to 55% by weight of C_{8-22} linear

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alcohols, from 10 to 20% by weight of C₈₋₂₂ alcohols branched with methyl groups, and 35 to 45% by weight of C₈₋₂₂ alcohols branched with alkyl groups having at least 2 carbon atoms; R⁵ represents an alkyl radical derived from an alcohol mixture comprising up to 10% by weight of C₆₋₁₀ linear alcohols, from 40 to 90% by weight of C₁₂₋₁₄ linear alcohols, and up to 30% by weight of C₁₆₋₂₂ linear alcohols; and wherein R⁶CO represents an acyl radical having from 6 to 22 carbon atoms and R⁷ represents an alkyl radical having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms.--

--39. (New) The solid laundry detergent according to claim 37, wherein the at least one nonionic surfactant of the general formula (II) comprises an alkoxylated mixture of linear alcohols, the mixture of linear alcohols comprising from 80 to 100% by weight of alcohols having from 16 to 22 carbon atoms and from 0 to 20% by weight of alcohols having from 6 to 14 carbon atoms, the weight percents being based on the total weight of the mixture of alcohols.--

--40. (New) The solid laundry detergent according to claim 37, wherein the mixture of linear alcohols comprises from 3 to 8% by weight of linear saturated alcohols having 14 carbon atoms, from 25 to 35% by weight of linear saturated alcohols having 16 carbon atoms, and from 60 to 70% by weight of linear saturated alcohols having 18 carbon atoms.--

--41. (New) The solid laundry detergent according to claim 37, further comprising up to 2% by weight of linear saturated alcohols having 12 carbon atoms, and up to 2% by weight of linear saturated alcohols having 22 carbon atoms.--

--42. (New) The solid laundry detergent according to claim 37, wherein x represents a number of from 4 to 12 and each R represents hydrogen.--

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--43. (New) The solid laundry detergent according to claim 37, further comprising an antifoam, the antifoam being present in an amount of from about 0.05 to 5% by weight, calculated as active substance content based on the detergent.--

--44. (New) A method of preparing a foam-controlled, solid laundry detergent, said method comprising: providing a surfactant mixture; providing one or more solid laundry detergent composition formulating auxiliaries; and combining the surfactant mixture and the one or more auxiliaries; wherein the surfactant mixture comprises

(a) a nonionic surfactant mixture present in an amount greater than 60% by weight, based on the weight of the surfactant mixture, the nonionic surfactant mixture comprising:

(i) at least one alk(en)yl oligoglycoside of the general formula

(I),



wherein R^1 represents an alk(en)yl radical having from 4 to 22 carbon atoms, G represents a sugar radical having 5 or 6 carbon atoms and p represents a number from 1 to 10; and

(ii) at least one nonionic surfactant of the general formula (II)



wherein x represents a number of from 1 to 30, each R independently represents a substituent selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen, a methyl group and an ethyl group, and R^2 represents a linear alkyl radical having from 16 to 22 carbon atoms; and

(b) up to 6% by weight, based on the weight of the surfactant mixture, of one or more anionic surfactants.--

Please cancel claims 1-20, without prejudice.